

FACT SHEET



OUR MISSION

The mission of the State of Delaware's Children In Nature Project is to improve environmental literacy, create opportunities for children to participate in outdoor experiences, promote healthy lifestyles and provide better access to green space through schools and community programs.

THE BACKGROUND

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), there is a provision called No Child Left Inside (NCLI) with broad and growing support. If it is adopted by Congress, new opportunities will emerge and resources will be available to focus attention on Environmental Education (EE); to foster understanding, analysis, and solutions to the major environmental challenges we face. While mainly addressing environmental education, this legislation also seeks to touch on healthy living programs encouraging outdoor recreation and sound nutrition.

If Congress adopts the NCLI proposals, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will include:

- Funding to train teachers to deliver high quality Environmental Education and utilize the local environment as an extension of the classroom.
- Incentives for states to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans to insure that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.
- Encouragement for teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for all students.
- Environmental Education will be integrated across core subject areas.

But, as a prerequisite to receiving implementation grants, states will be required to develop environmental literacy plans. The Children in Nature Task Force is working to see that Delaware is ready to seize this opportunity.

State of Delaware Children in Nature Taskforce



OUR VISION

The state of Delaware will be recognized as a leader in progressive environmental education for all of our children. At school and at home, in parks, backyards and other outdoor spaces, children and adults will experience a multitude of ways to improve health, well-being and enhance life-long learning through their encounters with and growing knowledge of the natural world.

No child will grow up without having a positive outdoor experience. All families will have access to green spaces. Our children will reconnect with the natural world in meaningful ways and there will be no child left inside!

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

To create a comprehensive plan with implementable recommendations to the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

OUR DELIVERABLES

- Draft a *Children In Nature* Executive Order.
- Inventory existing research/data, initiatives, programs, and best practices including public, private, state-wide and national efforts.
- Develop a recommendation report to include measurable goals and performance measures.
- Support the Delaware Department of Education in the development of an Environmental Literacy plan for the State of Delaware as required in the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Identify potential funding opportunities to implement the recommendation of the report.
- Identify messages and marketing strategies for *Children In Nature* (i.e., website, social marketing).

**State of Delaware
Children in Nature Taskforce**

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